

Tiffany Park Elementary School

School district: Renton

School location: Renton

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2013

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2014

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2015

Level Three of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2016

Sustaining Green School 2016-17:
Achieved in May 2017

Sustaining Green School 2017-18:
Achieved in May 2018

Sustaining Green School 2018-19:
Achieved in May 2019

Sustaining Green School 2019-20:
Achieved in June 2020

Student Team Recognition 2022-23:
Achieved in May 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Tiffany Park Elementary School increased its recycling rate to 73% thanks to collection of recyclable materials in its lunchroom and classrooms.
- Stickers from the Green Schools Program showing what can be recycled were placed on all classroom, office, and lunchroom recycling bins.
- Recycling tips and information were shared during morning announcements.



Green Team lunch monitor schedule and King County Green Team aprons in school cafeteria



Green Team poster encouraging students and staff to recycle



Earth Week booth set up by Green Team members. Students made conservation pledges and guessed how many school markers are being diverted from the landfill.



- To reduce wasted food, a lunchroom food share table was set up for unwanted, unopened packaged items from the school lunch program so other students could help themselves.
- The school reduced waste by using durable trays and bulk condiment dispensers in the lunchroom.
- The Green Schools Program trained Green Team students to serve as lunchroom recycling station monitors. Green Team members wore King County Green Team aprons to identify themselves as they assisted and reminded students daily about which items can be recycled.
- In 2013, the school received a King County Green Schools assembly program on waste reduction and recycling.
- The school placed Good on One Side bins in each staffroom for paper that can be used on the other side or turned into scratch pads using the school's note padding press. Each month, students created note pads and distributed them to teachers.
- Staff reduced paper use by sending newsletters and announcements electronically and over the PA system. Teachers communicated with parents via email instead of paper whenever possible.
- The school asked volunteers to weed flowerbeds and pick up garbage on campus.
- In October 2015, the school held the King County Earth Challenge assembly to educate and remind students about waste reduction and recycling practices.
- Green Team students created and showed a video during lunch to educate students about composting and recycling.
- By April 2015, the school had collected nearly 7,500 empty CapriSun juice pouches and sent them to TerraCycle, a company that uses the pouches to make backpacks and other products.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The Green Team posted energy conservation signs on school light switches to encourage students and staff to turn off lights when not in use.
- To conserve energy use, staff were encouraged to shut down computers and monitors at the end of each school day.



- In 2015, announcements were made to remind students and staff about turning off lights, computers and all electrical items to conserve electricity. Visual media was posted in classrooms and common areas about turning off lights and appliances and unplugging items when not in use.
- Thermostats were set to automatically turn down in the evening and come back on before school begins each morning. In school and classroom newsletters, students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjust the thermostat.
- Students were assigned energy conservation jobs such as turning off equipment at lights at the end of each school day.
- Green Team members made announcements over the PA system, in the cafeteria during lunches, and before assemblies about how to conserve energy at school and at home.
- Green Team members and staff shared energy conservation successes with the school at an open house.
- Tiffany held conservation fact or fiction trivia during lunch for students to test their knowledge of conservation practices and win prizes.

Water Conservation (Level Three)

- Green Team students and staff posted water conservation signs next to all restroom, classroom, and kitchen sinks.
- During Earth Week, students pledged to conserve water and energy, and to keep the school and community clean.
- At staff meetings, teachers Jane Lambert and John Paul presented water conservation initiatives such as reusing science kit water for a few days and pouring excess water into flowerbeds instead of down the sink.
- The staff dishwasher was replaced with an energy-efficient model and turned on only when full.
- During monthly Green Team announcements, students included an action item for students to conserve water such as turning off water while lathering hands and filling up a water bottle instead of letting the water fountain run.



- The PTA purchased reusable water bottles to give to students at the all-school walk-a-thon in early fall to help curb the use of plastic single-use water bottles.
- Green Team members timed automatic faucets to see how long they run before turning off, and shared this information with the custodian. Students were encouraged to report leaks or running faucets or toilets to the custodian.
- Students and community members gathered for an annual Earth Day event to pull weeds and spread mulch. Funded by the PTA, the event educated participants on the importance of mulch in reducing weeds and adding moisture to conserve water.

Sustaining Green School recognition

Tiffany Park Elementary sustained and built on its Level One waste reduction and recycling practices, Level Two energy conservation practices, and Level Three water conservation strategies. How the school did this each year is described below.

Sustaining Green School 2016-17

The school initiated classroom paper towel composting. Classroom teachers from grades K-5 were invited to join a volunteer composting project to redirect paper towel waste from garbage bins into compost bins. Compostable materials are transported to a Cedar Grove Composting facility to be composted.

Sustaining Green School 2017-18

The school started a classroom Crayola Recycling program for markers and pens. Weekly contests were held during lunch for students to guess the number of markers and pens diverted from the landfill.

Sustaining Green School 2018-19

- At the beginning of the school year, Tiffany Park hosted a King County Green Schools assembly to remind students about Green School practices.
- In its 2019 celebration of Earth Week, Tiffany Park shared voices for change, including Rachel Carson and [NASA Moon Trees](#), to help students make connections between positive advocacy and change.
- The Green Team and PTA created a mural using discarded bottle caps.



Sustaining Green School 2019-20

- Green Team students and PTA members collected plastic bottles to create recycled art. This encouraged students, staff, and families to rethink and prevent waste.
- With the National Geographic [annual Geo Challenge](#) the Green Team advisor and students discussed the impact of plastics on the natural world. Students met weekly to study and research the origins and outcomes of plastics locally and globally. This project fostered awareness beyond the school and local community.
- In 2019, the Green Team started a partnership with the school's First Lego League (FLL) Robotics team and City arborists to plant trees in Renton.
- In 2019-20, more classrooms started to collect paper towels for transport to a regional composting facility.
- The school started Waste-Free Wednesdays in January 2020. Green Team students created scripts for morning announcements, surveyed classrooms, and presented a monthly "most green" award based on a checklist of conservation practices. Digital awards were announced via PowerPoint in classrooms.
- The Green Team created sub-committees to assess and monitor classroom conservation practices.
- The school continued to reduce consumption, energy use, and water use. Students discussed the difference between "want" and "need."

Student Team Recognition 2022-23

- Students helped create a container pollinator garden.
- To educate their school community, students made weekly announcements about conservation and sustainability topics.
- Tiffany Park re-established a food share bin in their cafeteria. Students could place unopened, packaged food items from the school lunch program in the bin for other students to take.
- Students created an art project using the most wasted items in the school, including paper, cardboard, and markers.

Award

In 2015, the Tiffany Park Elementary School Green Team received the Earth Heroes at School Award for efforts to reduce waste and energy consumption.